

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 SCI-06 COA-02 DLOS-07 DOTE-00

EUR-25 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 ARAE-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P 041353Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO HQ USCG WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0557

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 6057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CI

SUBJECT: METULA SITREP 24

1. FOLLOWING METULA SITREP 24 WAS COMPILED FROM MESSAGES RECEIVED BY THIS EMBASSY FROM COMMANDER THIRD NAVAL ZONE, CHILEAN NAVY IN PUNTA ARENAS AND FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION:

AS OF 021200 OCT 74:

METULA SITREP 24

1. FLIGHT OBSERVATION ON 1 OCT REPORTS FOLLOWING OIL POLLUTION SITUATION: SECOND NARROWING FROM PUNTA GREGORIO TO BAJO SATELITE, A HEAVY PATCH OF OIL IN MIDDLE OF CHANNEL. BAHIA FELIPE, A FILM OF OIL OF GREAT EXTENTION. FIRST NARROWING, MIDDLE OF CHANNEL, A THICK PATCH APWOST COVERING ENTIRE NARROWING. FROM BAHIA POSESION TO A POINT FIFTEEN MILES EAST OF DUNGENES, SIGHTED FILM OF OIL IN LONG STRIPS, INDICATING A FLOW TOWARD THE ATLANTIC. NORTHERN COAST FROM CAPE POSESION LIGHTHOUSE TO DUNGENES, HEAVY PATCHES AS CLOSE AS 200 METERS FROM COAST. NO EVIDENCE OF NEW PATCHES ALONG THE COAST AT THIS AREA.

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2. BERGELAND CAME ALONGSIDE METULA AT 011700 FOR OFFLOADING OPS.

ACCORDING TO ULTRAMAR, BERGELAND COMMENCED PUMPING AT 012100 AND ESTIMATES LOADING AT 500 TONS PER HOUR.

3. DIVERS COMMENCED UNDERWATER HULL DAMAGE INVESTIGATION OF METULA ON 30 SEPT AND 1 OCT AND SHOULD CONTINUE OPERATION FOR NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. MARINE PATROL CONCLUDED INVESTIGATION ON POLLUTION DAMAGES BETWEEN PUNTA ANEGADA AND PUNTA PIEDRA AND INFORMS FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS: SECTOR WITH MAJOR OIL POLLUTION CONCENTRATION IS BETWEEN PUNTA MENDEZ AND PUNTA BAJA. IN COASTAL AREAS WHERE OIL HAS ACCUMULATED, IT WAS FOUND IN THE HIGHER PARTS OF THE COAST WHERE HIGH TIDE WASHES, CAUSING A HARDENED CAKED OIL SURFACE WITH AN AVERAGE THICKNESS OF EIGHT CENTIMETERS. LARGE DROPLETS OF OIL FOUND ALONG THE BEACHES, NORMALLY SHIFTING WITH INCOMING TIDES. DEAD FOWL COUNT CONCLUDED (CONDUCTED BETWEEN 14 AND 17 SEPT) AND FOLLOWING FOUND: 408 CORMORANS, 66 PENGUINS, 23 DUCKS, 84 SEAGULLS. REGARDING SHELLFISH, MAJORITY FOUND WERE CONTAMINATED BY THE OIL. MR BUTT AND MRS BAKER FLEW OVER STRAITS UP TO CAPE TAMAR. REPORT FORWARDED LATER. POPPER

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